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Commission on the Status of Women**Forty-ninth session**

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Agenda item 3

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution****Mainstreaming a gender perspective into national policies and programmes***The Commission on the Status of Women,*

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",² are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Recognizing that enhancing women's opportunities, potential and activities requires a dual focus, namely, programmes aimed at meeting the basic as well as the specific needs of women for capacity-building, organizational development and empowerment, together with gender mainstreaming in all programme formulation and implementation activities,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality, which requires making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated,

¹ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.



Reaffirming also that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1999/2 on institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women,³

Welcoming the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁴ and its call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

1. *Reiterates* that in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action⁵ and enhance the work for the advancement of women at the national, subregional/regional and international levels, Governments, the United Nations system and all other relevant organizations should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, inter alia, in the monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes;

2. *Stresses* that political will and commitment at all levels are crucial to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the adoption and implementation of comprehensive and action-oriented policies in all areas;

3. *Welcomes*:

(a) The wide acknowledgement of gender mainstreaming, the goal of which is to incorporate a gender perspective in all legislation, policies, programmes and projects, as a strategy to enhance the impact of policies to promote gender equality;

(b) The institution or strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women, the recognition of these machineries as the institutional base, acting as catalysts for the promotion of gender equality, gender mainstreaming and monitoring of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² and the progress achieved in terms of the visibility, status, outreach and coordination of the activities of these machineries;

(c) The contribution of these machineries, despite their limited financial resources, to the development of human resources in the field of gender studies and to the growing efforts for the generation and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age and gender-sensitive research and documentation;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to:

(a) Ensure that gender mainstreaming is fully understood, institutionalized and implemented, and that these efforts should include promoting awareness and understanding of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

(b) Develop and use frameworks, guidelines and other practical tools and indicators to accelerate gender mainstreaming, including gender-based research, analytical tools and methodologies, training, case studies, statistics and information;

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 1 (E/1999/99), resolution 1999/17.*

⁴ *General Assembly resolution 55/2.*

⁵ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*

(c) Develop effective accountability mechanisms, in particular through the introduction of gender perspectives and gender equality indicators in budgetary processes at all levels of government and, if necessary, to provide adequate guidelines and expertise to support this process;

(d) Promote the collection, collation, dissemination and use of sex disaggregated statistics and data and gender-sensitive indicators to enable the construction of appropriate tools for planning and programming purposes and the development of effective monitoring systems;

(e) Provide assistance, as appropriate, to agencies, including those outside government, in formulating the gender-sensitive performance indicators necessary to measure and review progress made in the field of gender equality, including the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming;

(f) Support the provision of training on gender mainstreaming to all governmental bodies, at all levels, to ensure understanding of their roles and responsibilities;

(g) Involve parliaments and, wherever appropriate, the judiciary in monitoring progress in gender mainstreaming and strengthening gender-related aspects of all government reporting, and ensure transparency through open and participatory dialogue and the promotion of balanced participation of women and men in all areas and at all levels of decision-making;

(h) Structure appropriately the functions of national machineries at all levels in order to ensure effectiveness in gender mainstreaming and strengthen their capacity to undertake gender analysis and develop the methodologies and tools needed to play a catalytic role in gender mainstreaming across all sectors of government in collaboration with line ministries;

(i) Provide national machineries with the necessary human and financial resources, including through exploring innovative funding schemes, so that gender mainstreaming is integrated into all policies, programmes and projects;

(j) Establish or reinforce existing institutional mechanisms at all levels to work with national machineries to strengthen societal support for gender equality, in cooperation with civil society, particularly women's non-governmental organizations;

5. *Emphasizes* that while the primary responsibility for gender mainstreaming rests with Governments, partnership with a wide range of political and social bodies at national, regional and international levels is also required for effective outcomes;

6. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system, to support efforts to mainstream a gender perspective at a national level by:

(a) Supporting national Governments in their efforts to strengthen national mechanisms through official development assistance and other appropriate assistance;

(b) Encouraging multilateral, bilateral, donor and development agencies to include in their programmes of assistance, activities that strengthen national machineries;

(c) Providing technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action;

7. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, with a view, in particular, to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session on progress in the use of statistical gender analysis and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of programmes and policies in order to address the inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels.